Brent Walby

Overall Experience

If I had to use one word to summarize my field experience with Mr. Fuller it would be unpredictable. The reason I say this is because I never really knew what to expect when I was going to walk into his classroom. It is not that Mr. Fuller was unpredictable, but his students were. There would be days where they would be absolutely great and we would have no problems. Then there would be days where it seemed like they slammed a five hour energy drink right before stepping foot into his classroom.

I can honestly say that I had quite the unusual experience when doing my field experience. While some students only had one teacher that they would be with on a day-to-day basis, I had the opportunity to work with a total of three. When Mr. Fuller was out for a week and a half because his wife just gave birth to their third child, Mr. Idso came in and took over. Mr. Idso was a retired Special Education teacher as of last year. He did not have any lee way for those students when it came to putting up with their attitude problems. You could tell that the students were not used to that way. Another teacher that came to help with Mr. Fuller but for only one day was Ms. Smith. She loved to joke with the kids and give them a hard time in order to gain their respect for her, which she achieved. I felt that the students on that one day had more respect for her than they did for Mr. Idso. Was it because she was having a good time with them while engaging in their learning? I do not know.

It was hard to keep a sense of organization while all of the chaos was happening in room 150 at Mankato East High School. Regardless of who was in the classroom, I was always willing to take on a new challenge and grow closer to these kids. Granted I did not get the teaching opportunities that I had hoped, that did not stop me from trying to stay actively engaged with the students even while they were doing a homework assignment.

What I will ultimately take away from this experience is the fact that behind the tough faces and tough skin of these students, each and every one of them has a soft side. Once you are able to get through to them, the sky is the limit for these kids. I know that when I was in 9th grade, it was not cool to do school work in the classroom because you were afraid of what your peers might think. If the students realize that class time is valuable and they can get a lot accomplished during that time. Half of them want to sit there and talk about games and what girls/boys they think are cute.

I am glad I was able to be with Mr. Fuller and his students for that three to four week period of time. I can honestly say I am more confident than I was that this is the profession for me. Seeing kids exceed their expectations and excel at things they did not know they could is great in itself. Knowing that you may be the one that helped them do that, leaves me with self-satisfaction and confidence in what I do.